

Listing Of The Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A medical information system,
comprising:

a database of health information descriptions, each
description relating to a patient and an associated pair, each
the associated pair comprising an associated access code, which
is associated with the patient, and an associated password, which
is associated with a non-patient user of the system, ~~wherein~~
~~users of the system include an entity other than patients;~~

a computer readable memory on a portable card, the memory
having stored therein a prospective access code, which is
associated with a patient;

a first computer programmed to provide a prospective pair,
the prospective pair comprising a the prospective access code,
~~which is associated with a patient,~~ and a prospective password,
the prospective password being ~~which is~~ associated with a user of
the system;

a second computer, in communication with the database and
with the first computer, the second computer being programmed to
determine whether a prospective pair corresponds to one of the
associated pairs, and if the prospective pair is determined to
correspond to one of the associated pairs, then the second

computer provides the description that corresponds to the prospective pair.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the first computer is programmed to provide a change to one of the descriptions.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the second computer is programmed to receive the change to the one of the descriptions, and then modify the database to reflect the change.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the second computer is programmed to record who made the change to the one of the descriptions.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a card having thereon a card code corresponding to the prospective access code.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the prospective password is a fingerprint.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the prospective password is a retinal scan.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein one of the associated pairs is issued to one of the patients, and the description corresponding to the one of the patients is related to the one of the associated pairs.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein one of the associated pairs is issued to a physician, and the one of the associated pairs is related to a plurality of descriptions.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein one of the associated pairs is issued to a health care provider, and the one of the associated pairs is related to a plurality of descriptions.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein one of the associated pairs is issued to a medical cost payer, and the one of the associated pairs is related to a plurality of descriptions.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the second computer is programmed to cause a message to be sent to a user of the system, the user being related to an associated pair.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of providing medical information, comprising:

providing a computer database of health information descriptions, each description relating to a patient and an associated pair, each associated pair comprising an associated access code, which is associated with the patient, and an associated password, which is associated with a non-patient user of the system, ~~wherein users of the system include an entity other than patients;~~

receiving a prospective pair, the prospective pair comprising a prospective access code, which is associated with a patient and provided by a computer readable memory on a portable card, and a prospective password, which is associated with a user of the system;

determining whether the prospective pair corresponds to one of the associated pairs; if the prospective pair is determined to correspond to one of the associated pairs, then providing the description that corresponds to the prospective pair.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising receiving a change to the provided description, and modifying the database according to the change.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising recording who made the change to the provided description.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising reading a card having thereon a card code corresponding to the prospective access code.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising reading a fingerprint having thereon a pattern corresponding to the prospective password.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising reading a retina having thereon a pattern corresponding to the prospective password.

19. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising issuing one of the associated pairs to one of the patients, and relating the one of the associated pairs with only the

description relating to the one of the patients.

20. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising issuing one of the associated pairs to a physician, and relating the one of the associated pairs to a plurality of the descriptions.

21. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising issuing one of the associated pairs to a health care provider, and relating the one of the associated pairs to a plurality of the descriptions.

22. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising issuing one of the associated pairs to a medical cost payer, and relating the one of the associated pairs to a plurality of the descriptions.

23. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising providing a message to a user related to an associated pair when the description is provided.

24. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code instructions embodied therein to cause a computer to provide access to medical information, the instructions having:

a computer readable program code module to determine whether a prospective pair is among a group of associated pairs, each associated pair having (a) an access code which is associated with a patient corresponding to the medical information, and (b) a password associated with a non-patient user of the system, ~~wherein users of the system include an entity other than patients;~~

a computer readable program code module to provide medical information corresponding to the prospective pair, if the prospective pair is among the group of associated pairs.

25. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 24, further comprising a computer readable program code module to instruct a computer to change the provided medical information.

26. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 25, further comprising a computer readable program code module to instruct a computer to record who made the change to the provided medical information.

27. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 24, further comprising a computer readable program code module to instruct a computer to provide a message to a user related to an associated pair when the description is provided.

28. (Currently Amended) A medical information system, comprising:

a database of health information descriptions, each description relating to a patient and an associated access code;

a portable card having thereon a first computer programmed to require entry of a password prior to providing a prospective access code, wherein acceptable passwords corresponding to non-patient users of the system, ~~and wherein at least one of the acceptable passwords corresponds to an entity other than the patient;~~

a second computer, in communication with the data base and with the first computer, the second computer being programmed to determine whether the prospective access code corresponds to one of the associated access codes, and if the prospective access code is determined to correspond to one of the associated access codes, then the second computer provides the description that

corresponds to the prospective access code.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the first computer is programmed to provide a change to one of the descriptions.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the second computer is programmed to receive the change to the one of the descriptions, and then modify the database to reflect the change.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein the second computer is programmed to record who made the change to the one of the descriptions.

32. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the prospective password is a fingerprint.

33. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the prospective password is a retinal scan.

34. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein one of the associated access codes is issued to one of the patients, and the

description corresponding to the one of the patients is related to the one of the associated access codes.

35. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein one of the associated access codes is issued to a physician, and the one of the associated access codes is related to a plurality of descriptions.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein one of the associated access codes is issued to a health care provider, and the one of the associated access codes is related to a plurality of descriptions.

37. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein one of the associated access codes is issued to a medical cost payer, and the one of the associated access codes is related to a plurality of descriptions.

38. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the second computer is programmed to cause a message to be sent to a user of the system, the user being related to the provided description.

39. (Currently Amended) A method of providing medical information, comprising:

providing a database of health information descriptions, each description relating to a patient and an associated access code, wherein the associated access code corresponds to the patient;

providing a portable card having thereon a computer readable memory capable of providing a prospective access code;

providing a password;

determining whether the password is among a group of acceptable passwords, at least one of the passwords being associated with an entity other than the patient;

providing the prospective access code;

determining whether the prospective access code corresponds to one of the associated access codes;

if the prospective access code is determined to correspond to one of the associated access codes, then providing the description that corresponds to the prospective access code.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising receiving a change to the provided description, and modifying the database according to the change.

41. (Original) The method of claim 40, further comprising recording who made the change to the provided description.

42. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein providing a password includes providing a fingerprint having thereon a pattern corresponding to the password.

43. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein providing a password includes providing a retina having thereon a pattern corresponding to the password.

44. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising issuing one of the associated access codes to one of the patients, and relating the one of the associated access codes with only the description relating to the one of the patients.

45. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising issuing one of the associated access codes to a physician, and relating the one of the associated access codes to a plurality of the descriptions.

46. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising issuing one of the associated access codes to a health care provider, and relating the one of the associated access codes to a plurality of the descriptions.

47. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising issuing one of the associated access codes to a medical cost payer, and relating the one of the associated access codes to a plurality of the descriptions.

48. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising providing a message to a user related to an associated access code when the description is provided.

49. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code instructions embodied therein to cause a computer to provide access to medical information of a patient, the instructions having:

a computer readable program code module to determine whether a prospective access code is among a group of associated access codes, and whether a prospective password is among a group of

associated passwords, wherein at least one of the associated access codes corresponds to the patient, and wherein ~~at least one~~ ~~of~~ the associated passwords corresponds to an entity that is not the patient;

a computer readable program code module to provide medical information corresponding to the prospective access code and the prospective password, if the prospective access code is among the group of associated access codes and the prospective password is among the group of associated passwords.

50. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 49, further comprising a computer readable program code module to instruct a computer to change the provided medical information.

51. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 50, further comprising a computer readable program code module to instruct a computer to record who made the change to the provided medical information.

52. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 49, further comprising a computer readable program code module to instruct a computer to provide a message to a user

related to an associated access code when the description is
provided to someone other than the user.